

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 10628

E.O. 11552: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SP, GI, UK
SUBJECT: GIBRALTAR

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 12 CONFIRMED THAT TALKS BETWEEN SPANISH AND BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTERS, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER IN NEW YORK, HAD BEEN POSTPONED TO OCTOBER BECAUSE OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA'S HEAVY SCHEDULE. MINISTRY REP ALSO CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT TELEPHONE SERVICE IS BEING MAINTAINED AND THAT TELEX AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE MAY SOON BE RESTORED (PRESUMABLY IN CONNECTION WITH MINISTERIAL MEETING).

2. MINISTRY REP SAID THAT BIGGEST PROBLEM CONTINUED TO BE UK INSISTENCE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NOT NEGOTIATING WITH SPAIN AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE GIBRALTARIAN PEOPLE. HOWEVER, IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UK'S CONTINUING CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE WAS A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION.

3. MINISTRY REP MENTIONED THAT GIBRALTAR HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS SOME TIME AGO, AND HE
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HOPED FOR AN UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE ON OUR PART. EMBOFF REITERATED STANDARD POSITION THAT GIBRALTAR WAS IN OUR VIEW STRICTLY A BILATERAL SPANISH-UK MATTER WHICH INTERESTED US AS A DISAGREEMENT EXISTING BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS. WE HAD NO POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THE PROBLEM ITSELF BEYOND OUR GRATIFICATION THAT THE PARTIES WERE NOW ENGAGED IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS. TO MINISTRY REP'S CITA-

TION OF GIBRALTAR AS A "NATO PROBLEM," EMBOFF SAID IT
WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT NATO MEMBERS TO WANT TO
INVOLVE THEMSELVES EITHER COLLECTIVELY OR INDIVIDUALLY IN
THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS LONG-TERM PROBLEM. WHILE GIBRALTAR
WAS A "NATO PROBLEM" FOR SPAIN BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECT ON
SPANISH ATTITUDES, IT WAS NOT A PROBLEM FOR THE ALLIANCE.
TODMAN

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